

REMARKS

Claims 1-3, 5 and 6 are pending in the application. The Examiner has rejected claim 1-3, 5 and 6 under 35 U.S.C. §112 as being indefinite for failing to particularly point and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. The Examiner has rejected claims 1-3, 5 and 6 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable over Hung et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5810306) in view of Zadro (U.S. 2004/0047052).

With respect to the rejection of claims 1-3, 5 and 6 under 35 U.S.C. §112 as being indefinite for failing to particularly point and distinctly claim the subject matter, Claim 1 has been modified to traverse the Examiner's rejection. The elongate body member is made of bendable, foldable material, such as aluminum, covered with a soft plastic type exterior member so that a user can adjust it by bending or folding the structure to different degrees and different directions. (See page 3, lines 12-15). Applicant also modified the claim language to clarify "the ends" issues. This invention provides a supporting structure having a thinner middle region so that it is easy to adjust the posture of the structure around the middle region comparing to the regions near by the ends of the supporting structure.

With respect to the rejection of claims 1-3, and 5-6 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable over Hung et al. in view of Zadro. Huang's flexible arm uses a heavy gauge wire and "a plurality of spacer members 25, 25' are positioned around and along the wire gauge and beneath the cover member 41... preferably is in the form of a disk". (See Hung et al. Fig.3 and Fig. 4 and col. 3, ll. 19. 21.)


Moreover, "a cover member 41, preferably in the form of an outwardly ribbed or corrugated substantially cylindrical tube or bellow structure ... is fitted over wire 13 and disks 25... a more easily gripped surface." col. 3, ll. 45-51. At the meantime, Zadro discloses a flexible arm 33 is a spirally formed steel tube in which adjacent spiral convolutions are flexible jointed, but

frictionally engaged with one another to maintain an adjusted flexure of the arm. Zadro Paragraph 32, ll. 3-5. The flexible arm of Hung et al. requires using a plurality of disks 25, 25' to maintain the structure integrity of the arm. Even if it is possible to replace the flexible arm of Zadro with the one used in Hung et al. as the Examiner suggests, both prior art don't teach or disclose two important features of the present invention; first, the plastic tube is directly formed on the elongate body member by an injection mold process; second, "the exterior covering member has a diameter gradually reduced from two ends of the exterior covering member toward the middle so that provides a more flexible, bendable and foldable middle region of the exterior covering member".

Therefore, Applicant respectfully disagrees with the Examiner's rejections. If the Examiner believes that a further telephonic interview will facilitate allowance of the claims, he is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned at (610) 446-5886. For the reasons stated above, Applicants respectfully assert that the pending claims are in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and allowance of the pending claims are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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